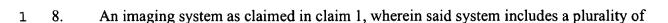


CLAIMS

- 1 1. An imaging system for receiving images, said system comprising:
- an image receiving unit for receiving an input image; and
- a spatial light modulator interposed between said image receiving unit and an input
- 4 image, said spatial light modulator for selectively modulating the input image such that at least
- 5 one portion of the input image may be blurred as it passes through said spatial light modulator
- 6 toward said image receiving unit.
- 1 2. An imaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said image receiving unit comprises
- 2 an array of photodetector cells.
 - 3. An imaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spatial light modulator comprises an array of liquid crystal opto-electronic elements.
 - 4. An imaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spatial light modulator comprises an array of birefringent elements for selectively effecting a blurring of the input image.
 - 5. An imaging system as claimed in claim 4, wherein birefringent characteristics of each birefringent element are selectively controlled independent of other birefringent elements.
- 1 6. An imaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spatial light modulator includes
- 2 liquid crystal cell.
- 1 7. An imaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal cell is surrounded
- 2 along its periphery by a plurality of electrodes.



- 2 spatial light modulators interposed between the input image and said image receiving unit.
- 1 9. An imaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said image receiving unit includes a
- 2 holographic material.
- 1 10. An imaging system as claimed in clam 1, wherein said image receiving unit includes a
- 2 robotic vision system.
- 1 11. An imaging system as claimed in clam 1, wherein said image receiving unit includes a
- 2 visual monitoring system.
 - 12. An imaging system for selectively blurring portions of an image field, said system comprising:

an array of birefringent elements through which the image field may pass, said birefringent elements being individually selectable to permit selective birefringence of the input image.

- 13. An imaging system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said system permits selective
- 2 blurring in areas specified by an image compression algorithm.
- 1 14. An imaging system for selectively blurring portions of an image field, said system
- 2 comprising:
- a liquid crystal cell through which the image field may pass; and
- a plurality of electrodes positioned adjacent said liquid crystal cell such that portions of

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- 6 field is refracted through said liquid crystal cell.
- 1 15. An imaging system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said portions of said liquid crystal
- 2 cell may be selected to provide a desired amount of birefringence of the image field as the image
- 3 field is refracted through said liquid crystal cell.
- 1 16. An imaging system for receiving images, said system comprising:
- an image receiving unit for receiving an input image; and
 - a spatial light modulator interposed between said image receiving unit and an input image, said spatial light modulator including a first area for refracting the input image along a principle axis of refraction toward said image receiving unit, and a second area for refracting the input image along the principle axis of refraction and along a second axis of refraction, said second axis of refraction being angularly disposed to said first axis of refraction.
 - 17. An imaging system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said imaging system further includes a control unit for varying the angular direction of said second axis of direction with respect to said principle axis of refraction.
- 1 18. An imaging system for receiving images, said system comprising:
- 2 an image receiving unit for receiving an input image; and
- a spatial light modulator interposed between said image receiving unit and an input
- 4 image, said spatial light modulator including a first area for refracting the input image along a
- 5 principle axis of refraction toward said image receiving unit and along a second axis of

- 6 refraction, said second axis of refraction being angularly disposed to said first axis of refraction,
- 7 and a second area for refracting the input image along the principle axis of refraction and along a
- 8 third axis of refraction, said third axis of refraction being angularly disposed to said first axis of
- 9 refraction at an angle greater than the angle of said second axis of refraction.
- 1 19. An imaging system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said system further comprises a third
- 2 area for refracting the input image along the principle axis of refraction and along a forth axis of
- 3 refraction, said forth axis of refraction being angularly disposed to said first axis of refraction at
- 4 an angle greater than the angle of said third axis of refraction.
 - 20. An imaging system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said spatial light modulator comprises an array of birefringent elements.